this project which include studies on market assessment and consumer behaviour, product processing, evaluation of market potential, publicity using electronic and print media for creating consumer awareness and organization of exhibitions/ seminars.

Government is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "National Horticulture Mission" under which funds are provided for setting up of vermi-compost units @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary.

(b) Does not arise.

PM's scheme for development of agriculture sector

†606. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the month of May, 2007 the Prime Minister had announced a scheme of rupees 25,000 crores for expenditure under a new system for the development of agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any effective action plan has also been formulated in order to utilize the above mentioned amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The National Development Council's resolution dated the 29th May, 2007 has identified the need for introducing a new Additional Central Assistance scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture to incentivize the States to draw up plans for their agriculture sector more comprehensively. The scheme is being formulated.

Rain based farming

†607. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of agricultural land dependent on rains in the country;

(b) whether some concrete effort is being made by his Ministry to encourage rain-based dry farming in the State of Uttarakhand; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Out of 328.7 million hectare of geographical area of the country,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

about 141 million hectares is net cultivated area. Of this, about 56 million hectare (40%) is irrigated and the remaining 85 million ha (60%) is rainfed.

(b) Government of India has accorded very high priority to the holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas through integrated watershed management approach. The current strategy of various ongoing projects in the States, including the State of Uttarakhand, for development of rainfed areas is based on the concept of conservation of rainwater for integrated development of watersheds, promotion of diversified and integrated farming systems approach, management of common property resources and augmenting family income and nutritional levels of participating watershed communities. A National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has been set up by the Government of India on 03.11.2006. The Authority is mandated to provide much needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of country's dry land and rainfed agriculture and to bring about convergence and synergy among the numerous ongoing watershed programmes.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) and Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR) Schemes in the State of Uttarakhand which addresses the development of rainfed and degraded areas. The physical and financial progress of these two schemes in Uttarakhand up to 31st March, 2007 is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Progress up to 31st March, 2007	
		Physical (Area in lakh ha)	Financial (Rs. in crore)
1.	NWDPRA	1.21	66.25
2.	RVP & FPR	1.89	97.18
	TOTAL:	3.10	163.43

Terminal markets for agricultural produces

608. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up terminal markets for agricultural produces with the private/co-operative sector participation in the country;

(b) if so, the details of their locations;

(c) the features thereof and the funds released for the purpose; and

(d) when the said scheme is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.